

## Proclaimers of God's Word - Refresh and Renew

### WHY WE HAVE SCRIPTURES IN THE LITURGY

“So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.”  
Romans 10: 17

The scriptures were written by many authors over time, inspired by God. The word ‘inspiration’ has a Greek origin and means ‘God’s breath’. So scripture, like Jesus, is both human and divine. Jesus in his ultimate act of incarnation became for us the Word of God and God’s self-revelation.

The concept from reading from both the Old and New Testament brings us into a deeper understanding of the history that God has placed before his people. His gradual revelation of himself to his people, who are growing in faith and knowledge, is a personal encounter that Vatican II taught, “In the sacred books the Father who is in heaven comes lovingly to his children and talks with them”. *Die Verbum 21*.

The Word of God is part of every liturgical celebration. The Word speaks to us in a special way when it is proclaimed and interpreted by ministers of the Church. The proclamation of Scripture is one of the ways in which Jesus is present in the celebration of the Eucharist. The Word lives in the proclamation but it is not truly effective unless it enters the hearts of those present and influences their every action.

The two parts of the Mass, the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist, are interdependent and inseparable. They form a single act of worship. At one table the People of God are nourished by the Word and at the other by the Eucharist. The Liturgy of the Word reminds us of the history of salvation; the Liturgy of the Eucharist invites us to share Christ’s life and continues the work of salvation in the life of the listener.

In order to appreciate the profound nature of what is really happening in the Liturgy of the Word consider the amazing role played by those who proclaim the Word in the Liturgy. The reader is not just reading from a book, but is the instrument through which God’s voice is heard. What an amazing honour and privilege this is.

[Live and Proclaim God’s Word](#), A Handbook for Readers in Parish and School , Archdiocese of Perth  
Liturgical Guidelines - Page 8

## Proclaimers of God's Word

### PERSONAL REFLECTION

Am I open to the Spirit working through me as a proclaimer of God's Word?

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Do I understand the liturgy and the place of the Word?

[The Mass Series](#). In 16 short videos Archbishop Mark Collieridge breaks open and gives insight into each element of the Mass

Do I read Scripture regularly?

The practice of [Lectio Divina](#) is an ancient prayer practice which originated in the early Church among Christians who wished to contemplate the Sacred Scriptures.

Bishop Robert Barron – [Word on Fire](#) <https://www.wordonfire.org/>  
(subscribe for daily readings and reflections directly to your inbox).

How can I better prepare to proclaim the readings?

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Here is a challenge for you from Pope Francis:

[Gospel Reading Challenge](#)

